

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Founded in 1873



STEPHEN A. FORRESTER, *Editor & Publisher*
 LAURA SELLERS, *Managing Editor*
 BETTY SMITH, *Advertising Manager*
 CARL EARL, *Systems Manager*
 JOHN D. BRUIJN, *Production Manager*
 DEBRA BLOOM, *Business Manager*
 HEATHER RAMSDELL, *Circulation Manager*

Water under the bridge

Compiled by Bob Duke

From the pages of Astoria's daily newspapers



10 years ago this week — 2006

A piece of local history was among the casualties of last weekend's storm. A century-old building that was part of the cannery complex in the Alderbrook neighborhood was knocked off its pilings Saturday morning and wrecked on the nearby tidal flats.

The building came loose at about 8 a.m. Saturday during the "last big gusts" that rocked the North Coast with gusts of up to 77 mph and sent swells four or five feet high along the Columbia River.

The structure stayed mostly intact as it floated a few hundred yards eastward through the slough, but after it struck ground the walls buckled and collapsed. Pieces of debris that broke loose as the building floated were washed up all around the edge of the slough, marking the high point of Saturday's storm surge.

Contessa Sturgell had fielded calls for help from her cousin before.

And Monday night's was no different than the others from Craig Larsen, one of two fishermen missing and presumed dead after the body of their crewmate was found on a Tillamook beach. Also found early Tuesday were three unused survival suits and an empty life raft.

"I asked him if something was wrong ... 'This boat's going to be the death of me; it's always broken,' he said," recounted Sturgell.

She was the last one to speak with Larsen, 32, of Warrenton. Wreckage of his boat, the 46-foot crabber Catherine M, was found strewn across a Tillamook beach.

Strong currents pulled a local surfer out to sea near Cannon Beach Tuesday morning.

Around 10:30 a.m., the U.S. Coast Guard received a call from Seaside's 9-1-1 dispatch, relaying a report that a surfer was in distress in the Pacific Ocean at Ecola State Park, said Darin McCracken, a petty officer with the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard diverted a patrolling HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter to rescue the surfer, Matt Heyward, 37, of Cannon Beach, who was safely hoisted by basket into the aircraft.

Motorists descending the Astoria bridge approach will encounter this sign and start fishing for pocket books. Highway department has not yet announced what tolls will cost, however. Erection of traffic signs on and around the bridge approach was in progress this week, but all signs along the highway will be kept covered until the bridge is open. "If a motorist started to follow a sign 'to Washington points' he'd soon hit a dead end," said Project Engineer Robert Ellison. (Daily Astorian Photo by Gordon Clark)



50 years ago — 1966

Mr. and Mrs. Rolf Klep have returned from three months in New York City and the East where Klep, president of Columbia River Maritime Museum association, visited many maritime museums and called on heads of various foundations to solicit support for the Astoria museum.

"I had much encouragement," Klep said. "Wherever I went, people were enormously impressed that a town of 10,000 could do so much in maintaining a good maritime museum," he said.

Klep had a check for \$500 given the museum by Corporation Trust Foundation in New York.

Kristine Lindberg arrived by plane Tuesday night at Clatsop airport with a grant for \$10,000 awarded by the Paul Getty foundation for a musical scholarship.

News of the scholarship, awarded at the Metropolitan Opera Touring association auditions in San Francisco last weekend came out of a clear sky for the 18-year-old daughter of Dr. Oscar Lindberg, who represented her state as the only winner from Oregon in Primary auditions held in Seattle last month.

75 years ago — 1941

Establishment of a half-mile horse racing track with grandstand and dog track in connection is contemplated by Leland Shaw, Portland attorney, and Robert Bovey, also of Portland, at the junction of coast highway and the Gearhart road.

The two men, who have been discussing the subject for some time with Gearhart and Seaside business men, put the matter before the Astoria Hunt Club at a meeting Saturday, winning that organization's support.

Assurance of a civilian pilot training course for the Clatsop airport by next fall and possibly as early as this spring was given members of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce aviation committee, who flew to Seattle yesterday to confer with Wiley Wright, district civil aeronautics official.

A tentative list of 26 Clatsop County selective service registrants has been drawn for induction into the army on February 17, date of the next quota call from this county, according to Ira White, selective service administrator for the county.

'Where the artsy liberals came'

SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

By R.J. MARX



CANNON BEACH — With Betsy Ayres, who needs a survey?

The city of Cannon Beach is measuring public opinion in eight key areas of community livability

"I can understand why Oregon's gotten more and more popular," Ayres said over coffee at Sea Level Bakery in Tolovana. "It's a stunningly beautiful place. The lifestyle, the access to the ocean, the clean air, the safety, the amazing beauty..."

An essential detail about Cannon Beach, Ayres said, is that most of the residents moved here because they wanted to be here, not like most places, where people live because that's where they were born.

Ayres relocated from Portland in 1969, a time when, she said, Cannon Beach was making the transition from a quiet, out-of-the-way logging town to a getaway destination.

"A lot of people in the '60s moved here because the rent was cheap and the environment was beautiful, and it sort of began its identity as an arts colony," she said. "Cannon Beach was the place where the artsy liberals came."

Between family, a long history of civic service and a glittering personality, Ayres soon "knew everybody, and everybody else knew everybody," she said.

Her grandmother's name — Lottie Anderson — is on a plaque by the checkout desk at the Cannon Beach Library.

Anderson, incidentally, survived San Francisco's Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906. She moved to Cannon Beach in 1945.

'Carmel North'

A real estate agent named Richard Atherton — "a real promoter," says Ayres — first marketed Cannon Beach as "Carmel North." "That was his idea as the way to draw people," Ayres said. "It didn't seem to stick, especially when people began buying and tearing down all the wonderful beach cabins and

putting up McMansions. Carmel restricts that."

In the '80s and '90s, people who came to Cannon Beach with money sought same comforts they had in "a big house in Portland," or wherever they were coming from, Ayres said.

"Oregon's gotten more and more popular, because this is such a stunningly beautiful place, so people wanted to come here," she said. "I don't begrudge their creature comforts. Not everyone wants to live with a woodstove and be like 'Little House on the Prairie.'"

Serving as city councilor, member of the Planning Commission, Emergency Preparedness Committee and Budget Commission, Ayres soon realized some new residents held little regard for environmental regulations or the design review process, and they came up with some "pretty crazy ideas."

A former Chamber of Commerce official wanted to put lighthouses the length of Cannon Beach.

"She thought that would bring people to Cannon Beach," Ayres laughed. "The City Council wouldn't go for it. She stormed out of the meeting: 'You're trying to ruin the businesses of Cannon Beach!'"

Ayres recalled plans to pave wetlands behind Spruce Street for more parking.

"Traffic is this long, knock-down, drag-out fight," she said. "It never changes."

In the summer, Ayres stays home, or if she does go into town, rides her bike or walks. "If I don't try to drive through town, I'm good with that," she said.

After years of service, Ayres shied away from public office after realizing it was not necessarily a good way to make friends.

"If you're in public office, there are people's wishes who are thwarted when you're on the council, and 'Hi, how are you' relations became really hostile," she said. "I don't have the boundaries for that. If you want to keep your friends, you have to be able to just go home, shrug it off and think, 'They're

TAKE THE SURVEY

You don't have to be a longtime resident to fill out the poll at <http://bit.ly/1Km1nn2>. You can live, work or just visit the city to have your thoughts heard. Feedback will help guide the city's strategic plan, a two-year process. Surveys were mailed to residents in late January and are due back at the end of February.



Betsy Ayres

'I don't want Cannon Beach to be like Beaverton.'

Betsy Ayres

this place as wonderful as it was when I was a child."

Ayres said she thinks the city is "pretty solid," but wishes more people at City Hall had a greater personal history in Cannon Beach.

"I wish there were more institutional memory about what built this place into the fantastic place that it is, and that there were more focus on the services for the people who live here," she said.

Ayres said she thinks there should be discussion of a senior center and affordable housing. She's bitter that 70 percent of the room tax goes to tourism, and is frustrated by efforts by the "real estate lobby" to stymie land preservation.

She wants people to "squawk" when the city starts cutting down trees in the right-of-way, "and not pave every road and have glaring searchlights everywhere. I don't want Cannon Beach to be like Beaverton, and it's getting more that way every day."

"I love living in a small town, I love living in a small area," Ayres said. "I like the web of connections when you stay in a community your whole life. For some reason that gives me a lot of comfort. It just has a tremendous appeal to me."

R.J. Marx is *The Daily Astorian's* South County reporter and editor of the *Seaside Signal* and *Cannon Beach Gazette*.

The revolt against decadence

By ROSS DOUTHAT
New York Times News Service

One of the puzzles of the 2016 campaign, unexpectedly defined by the ascent of a billionaire reality TV star and a septuagenarian Vermont socialist, is why now? Yes, voters are angry, yes, they're exhausted and disgusted and cynical about everything. But why is everything boiling over in this particular cycle, in this presidential campaign?

Consider: The economic picture is better than it was in 2012, when Republican primary voters settled for Mitt Romney and an incumbent president was re-elected pretty easily. (In both Iowa and New Hampshire, the unemployment rate is under 4 percent.) The foreign policy picture is grim in certain ways, but America isn't trapped in a casualty-heavy quagmire the way we were in 2004, when Democratic voters played it safe with John Kerry and George W. Bush won re-election.

As Michael Grunwald argued recently in *Politico*, the worst-case scenarios of the post-Great Recession era haven't materialized. Obamacare is limping along without an imminent death spiral, and health care costs aren't rising as fast as feared. The deficit has fallen a bit, and inflation is extraordinarily low. The stock market is wobbly, but we haven't had a double-dip recession.

On the cultural front, out-of-wedlock births are no longer rising. Abortion rates have fallen. Illegal immigration rates are down.

The state of the union isn't all that one might hope, but it could clearly be a whole lot worse.

So what are Trumpistas and Bern-feelers rebelling against?

One answer might be that they're fed up with exactly this — the politics of "it could be worse," of stagnation and muddling through. They aren't revolting against abject failure, or deep and swift decline. They're rebelling against decadence.

Now it may sound absurd to cast a figure like Donald Trump, the much-married prince of tinsel and pasteboard, as a scourge of decadence rather than its embodiment.

But don't just think about the word in moral or aesthetic terms. Think of it as a useful way of describing a society that's wealthy, powerful, technologically proficient — and yet seemingly unable to advance in the way that its citizens once took for granted. A society where people have fewer children and hold diminished expectations for the future, where institutions don't work particularly well but can't seem to be effectively reformed, where growth is slow and technological progress disappoints. A society that fights to a stalemate in its foreign wars, even as domestic debates repeat themselves without any resolution. A society disillusioned with existing religions and ideologies, but lacking new sources of meaning to take their place.

This is how many Americans, many Westerners, experience their civilization in the early years of the 21st century. And both Trump and Bernie Sanders, in their very different ways, are telling us that we don't have to settle for it anymore.

With Trump, the message is crude, explicit, deliberately over the top. Make America Great Again. "We will have so much winning if I get elected that you may get bored with the winning."

But it resonates because the diagnosis resonates — especially with older



Ross Douthat

Americans, who grew up amid the post-World War II boom, the vaulting optimism of the Space Age, the years when big government and big business were seen as effective and patriotic rather than sclerotic and corrupt. Trump is offering nostalgia, but it's not a true reactionary's lament. He wants to take us back to a time when the future seemed great, amazing, fantastic.

Likewise Sanders, except that in his case the glorious future is more mid-century Scandinavia than Space Age America. After Obamacare became law, it seemed to many people that the welfare state project was basically complete, that the future of U.S. liberalism mostly involved tweaking entitlements around the edges to keep them solvent. But Sanders is telling liberals, younger liberals especially, that the heroic age of liberalism isn't over yet, that they can have a welfare state that's far more amazing and fantastic than the one their forefathers constructed.

The fact that both of these messages — Trump's "Make America great again" and Bernie's "Why not socialism?" — involve essentially recycled visions of the future is a sign of how hard it is for a decadent society to escape the trap of repetition.

But more important, the fact that both men are promising the implausible or the impossible — and the fact that Trump is openly contemptuous of our ragged republican norms — is a reminder that there are worse things than decadence, grimmer possibilities for the future than drift and repetition.

The disappointment and impatience that people feel in a decadent era is legitimate, even admirable. But the envy of more heroic moments, the desire to just do something to prove your society's vitality — Invade Iraq to remake the Middle East! Open Germany's borders! Elect Trump or Sanders president! — can be a very dangerous sensibility.

There are pathways up from decadence. But there are more roads leading down.